



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services



Department of Social & Health Services and Washington State Patrol Partnership

News *Release*

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State Patrol and DSHS work together for kids

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) are joining forces to ensure that some parents who owe child support pay up.

The WSP currently has hundreds of thousands of dollars being held in its eight district evidence facilities. This currency has been placed into the evidence system for a variety of reasons ranging from safekeeping out of an accident to narcotics related seizures.

At the same time, the DSHS Division of Child Support (DCS) has almost 300,000 cases of non-custodial parents who owe child support for over 425,000 children statewide.

Starting next month, DSHS will train WSP's Property and Evidence Custodians around the state on how to utilize an online program called the Child Support Debt Registry. Each time the WSP takes currency into the evidence system, the Property and Evidence Custodian will check the registry's secure Web Site data base to see if the individual owes back child support. If there is a match, DSHS will be notified and the amount owed will be released by the WSP to be applied to the child support case. By using this data base, the WSP and DSHS are ensuring that the money is going to children who are rightly entitled to support.

The owner of the funds placed into the WSP evidence system may dispute the seizure by going through an administrative hearing process.

WSP Chief Ronal Serpas stated "This is a very important program that benefits children whose parents are behind in child support payments. By ensuring monies seized by law enforcement agencies be given to the children, we feel this can greatly make a difference in their lives. We value this partnership with DSHS because it helps children and families."

"This is an excellent example of interagency cooperation to improve the lives of children in need," said DSHS Secretary Dennis Braddock. "We look forward to working with the

State Patrol on this program and encourage other law enforcement agencies throughout the state to join us in this voluntary partnership.”

Braddock notes that the registry may be used by any organization or individual planning to give money to someone, to check if the person owes a child support debt. It can be found online at <http://www.debtreg.dshs.wa.gov>

DCS is a national leader in innovative child support collection programs that improve the quality of children’s lives. The division is consistently in the top ten nationally in federal child support performance measures and has been recognized for its case management system and electronic services for employers and paying parents. Last year, DCS received the Washington Software Alliance Industry Achievement Award for its Web-based Child Support Internet Payment Service, one of the first of its kind in the nation.

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